

**Hopkinton Budget Committee
Town Hall
May 13, 2009**

Present: Karen Irwin, Chair; Tom O'Donnell, HVP Representative; Cameron Ford, Marion Paxton, David Luneau, School Board Representative; David Lancaster, Danny Coen, Bob Carpenter, CVP Representative; and Patrice Gerseny.

Absent: George Langwasser, Selectmen Representative

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

Chairman Irwin opened the meeting by reviewing the minutes of April 8, 2009, after making several changes. A motion to approve as amended was made by Marion Paxton and seconded by David Luneau. All were in favor. Next we reviewed the February 11, 2009 meeting minutes and made several changes. A motion was made to approve as amended by David Luneau and seconded by Patrice Gerseny. All were in favor. Then we re-reviewed the January 28, 2009 meeting minutes and made several changes. Marion Paxton made a motion to approve as amended and David Luneau seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Chairman Irwin went to the next item on the agenda which was the Town and School Financials. David Luneau went over the School District financial, reflecting that they would have an anticipated surplus of around \$400,000 less the \$75,000 transfer to the maintenance trust fund. The Food Service deficit was anticipated to be \$62,138. Teacher and Support Staff re-negotiations of the contracts had begun again and it was anticipated to have a ratified contract by the fall of 2009. Since the Town Selectman representative was absent the committee went over the Town financials and made a list of questions on the financials from the committee:

Misc Revenues, Page 3, \$15,748.34 to date, what was that for?

Refunds, Page 3, \$3,104.40 to date, what is that for?

FEMA Revenue, Page 2, \$50,705, is that payment from the floods we had?

Flood Revenue, Page 2, \$684, real low are we going to get that revenue this year?

Inspection Fees, Page 2, \$600, what is that for?

Rooms & Meals, Page 2, \$0 to date, when do we usually get that revenue?

Highway Block Grant, Page 1, \$69,998.47, what do we get this for?

Inspection Fees, Electrical Permits, Plumbing Permits, Page 2, Board of Selectman minutes said we had raised \$7,000, it is only showing \$3,700 why the difference?

Warner/Landfill Grant, Page 2, when is this paid?

Cash flow could we get a copy of the report submitted to the Select Board. It is understood that we will not need to get TANS at this time.

Next we went over the Hopkinton Precinct Financials. Tom O'Donnell thought the precinct needed to adjust its report. He would have an updated report next month. David Lancaster and others thought it would be a good idea to have someone review the precinct records.

The next item on the agenda was the election of Chairman of the Budget Committee. Chairman Irwin asked if there were any nominations, Marion Paxton nominated Patrice Gerseny, seconded by David Luneau, providing she would accept. Patrice Gerseny accepted the motion, although she wanted to get someone to take minutes. Cameron Ford nominated Karen Irwin. She declined the nomination as she has been the Chairman for three years. All were in favor of Patrice Gerseny. Next we elected vice chairman, Cameron Ford made the motion to nominate Karen Irwin, Patrice Gerseny seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Under Other Information and Issues. Karen Irwin handed out our legal answer regarding the inquiry as to whether the Budget Committee can require department heads to be present at the public presentation of the budget committee to answer expense related questions. Especially if that attendance is the most expedient way for the public and the budget committee to be informed as to the expenditures in that department and that information is used to make recommendations for appropriations.

The letter stated that although the budget committee has broad statutory authority to obtain pertinent information from department heads and the governing body in such detail and at such times as the budget committee requests, the law does not grant the budget committee the authority to require attendance at a meeting to present that information. The letter further states that ?RSA 32:22, which provides that ?upon request of the budget committee, the governing body of the town or district, or the town manager or other administrative official, shall forthwith submit to the budget committee comparative statement of all appropriations and all expenditures by them made in such detail as the budget committee may require.?

Public Comments:

Janet Krzyzaniak stated that she thought that the Chairman should not take the meeting minutes and that the committee should take turns rather than get a secretary.

Patrice Gerseny made a motion to adjourn seconded by Danny Coen. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Irwin, Chairman

ki/bc

